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COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. TOPIC Brandenburg-Briest Airfield

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EVALUATION   25X1ADATE OF CONTENT 10 April to 2 May 1953DATE PREPARED 2 June 1953

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS 

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Brandenburg-Briest airfield between 10 and 28 April 1953:

10 April. Between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., there was air activity. One MiG-15 towed a sleeve target.

11 April. Between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., MiG-15s flew at an altitude of 600 meters over the field, heading south. The weather was fair.

12 and 13 April. There was no air activity while the weather was mostly sunny.

14 April. There was air activity in the morning. After 1 p.m. flying was discontinued because of rain.

15 April. No aircraft was observed aloft up to 1 p.m.

16 April. At 7:30 a.m., 22 swept-back jet fighters were parked at the runway. The weather was fair. At 8:30 a.m., a MiG-15 towing a sleeve target was observed over Brandenburg and 8 MiG-15s practiced flying in elements of two.

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17 April. Prior to 5 a.m. an alert was given in the Landesanstalt, but no take-offs were observed. About 6:30 a.m., 22 MiG-15s were parked at the runway and 120 to 160 men were observed behind the planes. Some take-offs and landings were made between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

18 April. At 9:40 a.m., the first MiG-15 took off and 8 MiG-15s followed at short intervals. One plane towed an air sleeve. During the morning, additional take-offs were made by swept-back jet fighters some of which released sleeve targets before landing at the field. Individual planes took off and landed up to 2 p.m.

19 April. There was no air activity in sunny weather.

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20 April. At 8 a.m., 5 or 6 MiG-15s took off at short intervals and headed west. About 9 a.m., two formations of four swept-back jet fighters each flew at high altitudes, emerging vapor trails. The planes dived assembled in line abreast formation and subsequently landed at the field at about 9:20 a.m. Flying was continued until about 4 p.m.

22 April. During the morning, individual planes practiced flying for 20 to 30 minutes. When compared with previous observations more planes were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks.

24 April. At 8 a.m., 6 alert planes were parked at the runway and 16 aircraft, including 11 covered with tarpaulins, in front of the flight control station. Between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., take-offs and landings were made by individual planes. There was fair weather.

28 April. Twenty-two MiG-15 and type-29 planes were counted at the field. Throughout the day, local flights of 5 to 8 minutes were made. <sup>1</sup>

2. On 18 April, four AA guns were observed in the Rosenhof emplacement. Probably a fifth gun was located there. About 25 men each were being given instruction on the four guns. The medium AA gun emplacements at Rosenhof were not occupied. <sup>2</sup>
3. Machine gun emplacements were observed near the communication trenches in Jagen (forest sub-district) 49. Their side walls were reinforced with knotty and brush wood. Source went along these trenches and observed many fresh foot prints and cigarette butts.
4. On 18 April, Soviet soldiers were engaged in lining the sloping side walls of the shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments at the southern edge of the field with concrete slabs, about 50 cm square. On 30 April and 2 May, work was in progress on the shrapnel-proof revetments. Six to 7 shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments were observed north of the east end of the runway, while previously 8 to 10 revetments had been reported there. Eight to 10 additional shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments were located along the road between Jagen 21 and 30, 22 and 31. <sup>3</sup>
5. In April, source observed a new fence, about 200 meters south of and parallel to the old fence in Jagen 21 and 22. The new fence extended as far as the road to Tieckow, there it bent to the north and led along the eastern side of this road to the old fence.
6. In the second half of April, two masts, one smaller than the other, were observed in Jagen 12. The second pair of masts previously observed could not be identified. No changes were observed on the construction pits. <sup>4</sup>

1.   Comment. According to available information, Brandenburg-Briest airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment which is equipped with about 25 MiG-15s.

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2.   Air activity was conducted at the previous level.

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2.   Comment. At present only one light AA battery with 6 x 37-mm guns is emplaced at the field.

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3.   Comment. Several shipments with concrete slabs were recently observed arriving at Brandenburg-Briest airfield. These concrete slabs are used for the reinforcement of the walls of shrapnel-proof aircraft revetments, as was observed at other airfields of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

4.   Comment. It is believed that a radar station with an SCR-602 type set and a fishnet type set is located at Brandenburg-Briest airfield.

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